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HALIBURTON COUNTY'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

The Highlander

Thursday **21 March 2013** | Issue 75

FREE



Photo by Matthew Desrosiers

Tim Hagarty demonstrates how to make maple syrup at the Haliburton Highlands Museum on March 16. See story on page 18.

Hope fades for missing Forest wolves

By Mark Arike

It's been almost three months since four wolves escaped from the Haliburton Forest & Wildlife Reserve after vandals cut the fencing containing them, but the criminal act – which remains unsolved – continues to be a topic of conversation amongst visitors and staff.

"I can't walk down the street in Haliburton without every other person asking me what's going on with the wolves," said David Bishop, general manager of the Haliburton Forest. "People are interested – and I get that – but it's everywhere."

Within the first day of their escape on Dec. 31 it was believed that Haida, the alpha male of the pack, had been shot and killed. However, it was later determined that Logan, one of the pups, was the victim of the shooting. A body wasn't discovered, but hair, blood and a cartridge were left behind,

said Haliburton Forest owner Peter Schleifenbaum in a blog post.

Two weeks later, Granite, the alpha female, was found severely wounded by two bullets. Despite efforts to save her, the wolf succumbed to its injuries.

Haliburton Forest staff have tried to reunite the two other missing wolves – Haida and Lonestar – with the remaining pack members in their enclosure, but their efforts have been unsuccessful.

According to a recent blog post by Schleifenbaum, the last confirmed sighting of the two male wolves was on Feb. 18 approximately two kilometers south of the wolf centre.

"Unless there are new developments in this two-month long saga, this will be the last post on the wolf release story at the wolf centre," he wrote. "I am as sad as most visitors and readers of this story that we were unable to have it come to a

happy end."

It was hoped that the males would return to the centre in time for mating season, which is now coming to an end. Of the five female wolves currently in the compound, three are pups and two are juveniles.

"They typically don't come into their first heat until they are two years old," said Bishop. "You're always hopeful that something might change because the alpha's not there... hormones change based on a lot of possibilities. We don't know."

If the wolves are still alive, one of the concerns is that they may interbreed with wolves in the wild. The Forest's wolves are western timber wolves (a type of grey wolf) while the rest of the local wolf population is made up of the Algonquin or eastern breed.

See "Forest" on page 2

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Highlander news



Photo by Mark Arike

A visitor to the wolf centre learns about wolves on display.

Forest may seek new male to breed with females

Continued from page 1

"That potentially adds some mixed genes into a gene pool where there shouldn't be," said Bishop. "That has the potential to have negative effects."

Since the wolves were released, hundreds of man-hours have been spent trying to bring them back. Efforts included the construction of a 10-foot-tall fence within the enclosure and a trap to lure them back inside.

"We've spent thousands of dollars in not just man-hours, but fencing, equipment... it's been huge."

The sad news story, which captured national media

attention, has been a learning experience for Forest staff and management.

"Hindsight is always 20/20," said Bishop. "You always wish you could've done something differently. The reality is that these are animals and it's hard for us to think like them."

If the wolves do not return, the Forest will likely go on the search for a male timber wolf to breed with the remaining females, said Bishop.

According to local OPP media relations officer Paul Potter, police continue to investigate the incidents that led to the release of the wolves on Dec. 31 as well as the subsequent shooting.

"We are continuing in the investigation and have checked numerous leads," said Potter. "We are appealing to the public for any information regarding suspicious persons, vehicles or activities between Christmas and New Year's 2012 at or near the wolf centre, and also any information regarding the incidents on Jan. 1, 2013 outside of the wolf centre."

Anyone with information should call the Kawartha Haliburton Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS or the Haliburton Highlands OPP at 705-286-1431.

The Haliburton Forest is still offering a \$3,000 reward for information leading to a conviction.

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Highlander news

Minden Hills study on cycling, pedestrians nears completion

By Mark Arike

More people are choosing active methods of transportation such as cycling and walking now than they were seven years ago, according to a study by Communities in Action (CIA).

"We know that there have been a lot of changes," said Sue Shikaze, who along with Kate Hall made a presentation to Minden Hills councillors at their March 14 committee-of-the-whole meeting.

In 2011, the CIA obtained a two-year, \$27,000 grant from the Ministry of Health's healthy communities fund to conduct a study on the role that active transportation plays in the county. The study, which will be completed by the end of the month, was a follow-up to work that had been done in 2007.

"We looked at changes around policy and planning, community design and infrastructure, awareness and actual levels of active transportation," said Shikaze.

In 2011, Haliburton and Minden residents were asked to complete a survey that looked at their awareness of active transportation and behaviour. An observational study was conducted at 12 locations throughout Minden to count cyclists and pedestrians.

"What we were able to do was compare the numbers from 2007 to 2012," said Hall.

Based on three hours of observation, the study revealed Minden's top three hotspots for active transportation – Ivergordon Avenue, Pritchard Lane and Water Street.

Only five people were observed using active transportation in 2007 during a three-hour period on Water Street, whereas 75 were observed in 2011. This represents the most significant increase at 1,400 per cent.

Travelling to a shopping destination was the number one reason given for using active transportation followed by trips to visit family and friends, work and school.

Respondents were also asked to provide what they deemed as barriers to using active transportation.

"The same four barriers came up again from 2007 to 2011," said Hall.

These included distance, weather conditions, time and unsafe traffic conditions.

In order to improve active transportation opportunities, those surveyed asked for better sidewalks, bicycle facilities, paved shoulders and bike lanes.

Hall said that improvements to infrastructure, such as new sidewalks and the Riverwalk, have made a difference.

"We know there are lots of benefits for communities creating active transportation," said Shikaze, adding that it helps keep the aging population active.

It also benefits the local tourism industry, she said.

"People are looking for opportunities to get out of their cars. Creating a welcoming place is going to get them to stop, look around and spend money."

Hall pointed out that since CIA undertook the study, active transportation has been a part of each municipality's official plan.

"We're delighted to see the progress your initiative is making in our community," said Reeve Barb Reid.

A final research paper will be completed by the end of April, and a community forum will be held in Minden on April 23.

Minden man slams council for eviction

By Mark Arike

A Minden Hills man who was ordered to vacate his trailer for the winter months paid councillors a visit at their March 14 committee-of-the-whole meeting.

"Shame on all of you for not knowing all the factors regarding my request," James McGregor told councillors.

In January, McGregor filed a request asking for an exemption to the bylaw that prohibits him from living at the South Lake Tent Trailer Park during the winter months (Dec. 1 to April 1). The Minden trailer park is without on-site sanitation facilities and running water during the prohibited months.

Councillors denied his request under the advice of their solicitor and the township's interim chief building officer Colin McKnight.

McGregor said he has yet to receive written notice of council's decision.

"I don't know how the voting went," he said. "Am I allowed to know how the voting went? Can I see a show of hands as to who voted against my request?"

Reeve Barb Reid informed McGregor that because a motion to deny his request was passed, a recorded vote wasn't taken.

"If the motion carries we don't record how many people voted unless a member of council asks for a recorded vote."

McGregor reminded councillors that they are all "elected representatives of the taxpayers" and should "see to proper administration."

"Shame on you for forcing me out of my home, a senior citizen," he said. "Shame, shame, shame."

McGregor has been living with family in Renfrew since he moved out of his trailer.



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Editorial opinion

Winter blues

Last week it seemed that the county was about to come out of hibernation.

The roads were dry, the sun was out, and a few people were even walking outside in t-shirts. People were out and about.

It helped that it was March break and students were in town. For a few days there, this place seemed alive.

Shop owners were champing at the bit to see some business again. For many, customers have been few and far between over the winter. It's not a comment on their efforts, rather an indication of just how dead business was this winter.

Now that the snow has returned, and along with it the cold, there's a risk of people returning to their homes, closing their doors and waiting another few weeks to venture forth once again.

While everyone told me what to expect, my first winter in the Highlands was definitely an interesting experience. Starting with the mass exodus in November, I was shocked at just how quiet things really did get around here.

Then the businesses started to close.

Some fought hard to keep their doors open. Others were forced to paper their windows and close until the summer.

But who can blame them? Walking through town to get people to participate in our question of the week section was like stumbling through a ghost town. You'd be hard pressed to find someone in the middle of the day, let alone the evenings.

This isn't to say there are no pros to the cold season.

Winter sports enthusiasts were thrilled

to get out and go sledding or skiing.

The lakes were peppered with fishing huts, and there were some events over the past couple of months that kept people entertained.

Unfortunately it wasn't enough to keep me from getting the winter blues. I was done with the whole thing after the fourth time in a week I had to clear out the driveway.

Sure, the snow maybe wasn't as bad as in past years (and I'm from northern Ontario, so snow doesn't really bother me anyway), but the erratic weather — one day snow, the next rain — was taxing.

So I decided to get out of dodge for a little while.

I scheduled a trip out of the country to a warmer climate, and while it may be a month too late (I'm leaving in April), it's better late than never. Besides, it should get the juices going again, after hibernating all winter, just in time for summer.

At The Highlander, however, the wheels are already turning in preparation.

We've got several exciting features in the works over the coming weeks and months, including an in-depth look at what's happening in Minden Hills. We'll dig into some of the issues we all face.

So hang in there for just a few more weeks. If it's any consolation to you when you look out your window this week, spring has already begun.



By Matthew Desrosiers

Silent nights

That beautiful sound outside — the one you can hear clearly in the evenings if you stick your head outside and listen carefully — is silence.

In just a few weeks, the Highlands will again buzz with activity. Air, land and water will come back to life with creatures from the smallest insect to the largest SUV. Thousands of tourists and cottagers will swell our towns and lakes, bringing with them the activity that drives our economy and drives many to distraction at the same time.

We do our best to cope, the loons bobbing and weaving around white-capped wakes and the rest of us taking similar evasive actions on roads and in grocery stores. But there's one activity that can be very difficult to escape, one that Minden Hills is now trying to curtail in response to mounting complaints: the lighting of fireworks.

The problem with fireworks is that you generally can't use them without bothering other people. They terrorize both wildlife and pets — think golden retrievers and chipmunks with post-traumatic stress — and poison the environment. They have as much practical use as a briefcase does to your average trout and, while often spectacular in professional displays, are decidedly less-so when packaged in a box of 20.

Still, many people don't see these negatives as sufficient reason to abstain. On the contrary, you can time your watch to the first cracks around 9:30 p.m. every summer Friday night. It's not really dark at that hour in mid-summer, but the kids have to get to bed and before that we have to blow stuff up. Where there aren't any kids — and I'm thinking of the parties of twenty-something twenty-somethings that go on for days — there's always going to be some guy who can't, how shall we say, hold his fire.

He may or may not be the same young man who's still awake at 3 a.m. with a desperate need (or drunken wont) to continue the show. One such incident had our neighbour, normally an extremely polite and decorous woman of a certain age, standing on the edge of her dock in her nightgown, shouting shut the f*** up by the light of the moon to no one in particular.

It's always men, isn't it? You never see a woman buying or using fireworks. Only men seem to be drawn to all those upright cylinders with exploding tips. Perhaps it's biological, in the way the males of most species display to impress their female

counterparts: glowing magnesium as the nocturnal equivalent of bright feathers and red Corvettes. Or fireworks could be

serving a primeval need to harness fire and demonstrate prowess to one's family: maybe Dad can't build a level deck, but hey kids, check out that sparkly thing in the sky! Am I a god or what?

Whatever the explanation, I really hope it's not the Freudian one. That would just be too sad.

Psychology aside, Minden Hills council would like to get fireworks under control. One option is a ban on the sale of fireworks in the county. It's a drastic step and won't prevent people bringing them in, but it will stop last-minute impulse-buyers — exactly the type of people you want to keep away from explosives — from picking them up on their trips into town.

Another possibility is to engage the lake associations, the organizations often closest to the source of the problem. They could even be deputized to issue tickets, though the impact of that on neighbourly relations might not be worth the benefits of the broader oversight lake associations could bring. Even so, social pressure can often be very effective as we've seen with anti-littering and anti-smoking campaigns.

What's unlikely to work is municipal or OPP enforcement. It's a simple matter of mathematics: too much area to cover, not enough time, and low odds of actually catching someone in the act so that there's evidence on which to base a ticket. The administrative costs to the municipality could quickly exceed the money collected from fines.

With no easy option, a combination of methods may be the best way for Minden Hills to put a damper on the incendiary noisemakers. As last year's fire ban demonstrated, bylaws and fines alone are often insufficient for some people to change their behaviour. And if people see one bylaw as toothless, they may consider other rules optional as well; the decline of civilization could well start just off Highway 35.

One thing's for certain: there will be fireworks in the Highlands this summer. For now, we still have our silence. Savour it.



By Bram Lebo

Submit pictures for our Trophy Wall to
matthew@haliburtonhighlander.ca

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Tell us your opinion.
Send your letters to the editor to
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Letters to the editor

Re: Sound and Fury

Dear editor,

I am sorry that you did not think that a second firing in the Minden Hills Municipal Office, this time without cause, was not newsworthy enough to print in your paper. It is a good thing that our other paper thought it was a big enough story to warrant front page. How else would the citizens of Minden Hills know that another firing had taken place? You state that it is not uncommon for new leaders to pick their own deputies to go forward. If this were true in this case, would it not have been more prudent for the new CAO to have stated her "new direction" to Ms. Cunliffe so the two could work together rather than fire her without warning? This would have saved Ms. Cunliffe's livelihood, pension, benefits, and much grief since there seems to be no issue with her job competency. It would also save the taxpayers the cost of another head hunter, advertising, and lawyers.

You mention that voting in the slate was exactly what the voters wanted. It was time for a change. I am not against change if it is for the right reasons. Was the "change" to sweep clean all department heads and senior management plus the CAO for the good of Minden Hills? Is it good for Minden Hills or does it give more power to the slate to change policies and procedural bylaws, to hire friends and people they can control? You mention the right for cottagers to vote. Of course they have the right as taxpayers. But if they did not care enough to return their "mail in vote" in time to have it count do they have the right to have it collected by campaign workers, have it put in two boxes, and driven to Minden to go into the ballot box just in time for the count on election day? Is that legal? Probably! Is it morally ethical? It definitely influenced the vote. The new CAO was hired to bring in an electronic vote. I shudder at how that will influence our next election.

You state that there is no Vision Team anymore. Really! Even if that were true, in my opinion, it is too late. The harm has already been done. Despite the town hall meetings to hear the opinions of the ratepayers, there is still talk of a one way Water Street. We said "no"! Business did not want it. Were they heard? Are traffic lights really needed on a little block on the main street? We said "no". Were we heard? Get out there. Hear the concerns of the people. People are stopping me on the street asking me "what can be done to stop this "change"? My answer is to be informed, understand what is happening and next time vote wisely, but vote!

Lois Rigney

A concerned ratepayer in Minden Hills

Photo of the week



Photo by Mark Arike

A patient is transported from the Haliburton hospital on board an Ornge helicopter.

Whispers North has closed its doors

Dear editor,

It is with sadness that we are announcing the closure of Whispers North Gallery and Gifts from our downtown Minden location, effective the month of February 2013.

I thank the community for the past 10 wonderful years of your loyalty and friendship. We have had the very good fortune to meet so many special people who have become friends and constant followers of Whispers North. Our success has been due to the interest of our residents, the amazing creativity of our artists, supportive organizations (too numerous to name), visitors to the county and friendly cottagers, all who care deeply about our town. As one cottager expressed, "we care about how well you do [your business]; this is our community too."

My gratitude extends to the Minden business community for all the support, sharing of ideas and the communal spirit shown as we participated in community events.

The artists, our raison d'être, the creators of one-of-a-kind,

very beautiful works of art, offered a world of discovery and pleasure to our viewers.

A very special thank you is also extended to our long serving staff member and friend, Sandria Garry, and Donna McKay, who more recently joined the staff team.

We will be retaining the business name and contact information including the e-mail address: whispersnorth@sympatico.ca. At a later date, we may consider the idea of opening a small shop in the county under the same name. If so, we will let you know by e-mail or telephone. Please send us your contact information and we will inform you of any upcoming changes.

Thanks to all. Our day-to-day friendly interactions with our customer- friends and Minden business colleagues will be greatly missed.

Susan J. Kellar
Minden

Card games and Canadian legends

Is it possible to both infuriate and ingratiate oneself to a large section of Haliburtonians in one Outsider column, I wonder? This week I may just do that. And so, as some form of disclaimer, I ask that you remember that as an, or more precisely 'The', Outsider, I am ignorant of much that it takes to be Canadian and as such cannot be held responsible for most of what I babble on about.

OK, first the infuriation. Stompin' Tom Connors' music was pretty lame.

Hold on, there! Before you fetch the shotgun, hear me out. Over the last week or so I've listened to countless eulogies, many accompanied by the Canadian star's songs. And, while the story of his impoverished beginnings, his unlikely rise to stardom, connection with real people all over the country and subsequent shunning of the music industry for its poor treatment of real Canadian musicians is riveting and most admirable, the fact is that the music itself was not the best.

Stompin' Tom sounded to me like a comic caricature of Johnny Cash. His not-quite-so-deep drawl was less melodic and more nicotine addled. The lyrics of Bud the Spud or, dare I say it, the Hockey Song, could have been written by an eighth grader. Sophisticated they were not.

My ire on this topic came to a head when I listened to a much respected Canadian musician, columnist and CBC

broadcaster tell of how, while he was at school in Ireland, when folk asked what it was to be Canadian he would take them back to his room and play them Stompin' Tom. Come on! This is why Americans get away with calling Canadians boring. This is why so many foreign folks have a false impression of you Canucks.

Stompin' Tom may well be a part of Canadian folk music history and he was certainly an ambassador for national pride, but let's step back a little, take stock and admit that he most certainly was not the musical genius that folks are making him out to be in light of his sad departure.

So, I say: Stompin' Tom I bow to your national fervour but as for your music, I'd rather listen to the Cookie Monster from Sesame Street singing Carly Rae Jepsen's Call Me, Maybe (check it out on YouTube, it's great).

Phew! Now to hopefully re-ingratiate myself with the few of you that have not thrown down the newspaper in disgust and have actually continued to read this far.

I learned to play euchre at the weekend. Yes, euchre! I've lived here for a while now and the publication of euchre scores in the local press constantly puzzled me. First I ignored them, then I became baffled by the word, finally I looked it up and found out euchre was a card game. But a card game of four players, playing as teams of two who sit across from one another and aren't allowed to talk tactics,

The Outsider

oreven speak during the game. Whoa! Way too complicated for this ignorant Englishman.

But then came the night when a good friend said: "Wanna play euchre?"

The hour was late and I was suitably intimidated so I said: "Sure but ya gotta teach me."

The next two hours went by in a blur of reds and blacks, rights and lefts, jacks that beat queens and getting well and truly euchred, in more than one way. The game was fascinating even to a now more than well-oiled beginner and after the first round I was elated but quite mystified when it was announced that my partner and I had won.

We played again and again, far too late into the night. I'm told that I got quite good at euchre for a novice but I'll have to take my friend's word for it as I can't remember the culmination of the night's revelry.

I do remember him falling off his stool once though. Guess I wasn't the only one getting euchred. And I woke in the morning with a sore head and these really annoying tunes going round and round in my head because the guy who taught me euchre, right down to his philosophies on 'going it alone', insisted on playing Stompin' Tom all evening!



By Will Jones

Highlander opinions

Eye on the street: Are you tired of winter's snow and cold?



Graham Earl

Omeme

Absolutely I am. Driving conditions have been a pain these past few months. I am really looking forward to summer.



Myrna Bronson

Minden

Of course I am tired of it. Isn't everyone? Just waiting for spring and to be able to open the windows and smell the fresh spring air.



Tom Marshall

Maple Lake

I was tired of it six weeks ago I am tired of these grey dark mornings. I want sunshine and warm. I can't wait for spring weather to start.

Arlene Thomson

Ingoldsby

Yes I am tired of shoveling snow. It has not been a bad winter. The temperatures have been a little erratic but that is life. We will deal with it.



Lisa Farrow

Crystal Lake

Sort of tired of it. I love my winter but I am ready for warm weather and to see some more warm sunshine.



Have a question we should ask? Send it to matthew@haliburtonhighlander.ca. Photos and interviews by Walt Griffin.

Fireworks bylaw 'very challenging' to enforce

By Mark Arike

Despite receiving revised drafts of noise and fireworks bylaws at their March 14 meeting, Minden Hills councillors still want to see additional changes made to the documents before they are passed.

In the draft noise bylaw, which was presented to council by interim chief building officer Colin McKnight, it states that no person shall make noise on a highway or elsewhere in the township between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. This includes "any unnecessary noise or unnecessary sound which disturbs the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of any person..."

Exemptions to the bylaw include emergency vehicles and special events.

The draft of the fireworks bylaw states that fireworks can only be set off on New Year's Eve and five days before and five days after statutory holidays, or for a day on which a permit has been issued by the fire chief.

According to McKnight's report, a fireworks bylaw would carry varying financial implications and would be "a very challenging bylaw to enforce."

Councillor Ken Redpath asked if there should be something in the noise bylaw to prohibit excessive noise during the day.

"I'm thinking of things like extremely loud music," he said. "Should we elaborate? Should we expand in that certain situation?"

"We did have it in our noise bylaw when we first had one in about 2005," responded McKnight. "But we just changed it because there were so many wrongs with it."

Councillor Larry Clarke said the fireworks bylaw doesn't define a timeframe.

"The noise is kind of a separate issue," said McKnight. "With the fireworks there's no real daytime limits on those." Reeve Barb Reid echoed Redpath's sentiments.

"I think we need to address daytime noise violations as well," she said, "We don't provide for that in this draft. Loud

music, barking dogs... those can be a huge irritant to people and I'm not sure why we wouldn't address that while going through this exercise."

McKnight again said these items were in the waste noise bylaw, but caused nothing but problems.

"Some of those issues were very hard to enforce," he said.

Although Reid admitted these noise issues would be difficult to enforce, she said they should be addressed somehow.

"We don't have staff that we can just call and send out a SWAT team to deal it. It's all about public peer pressure on neighbours to make people aware of the bylaws."

The noise bylaw sets out maximum fines of \$150 while the fireworks bylaw sets out \$250 fines. Councillor Brigitte Gall suggested increasing those amounts.

"That may in fact help that self-policing or the capacity for a neighbour to bring over the copy of the bylaw if it's a continual event," she said.

Redpath supported Gall's recommendation.

"A real stiff fine often has enough of a deterrent value," he said.

CAO Nancy Wright-Laking reminded council that staff are required to present bylaws they believe they can enforce.

"When you are considering things you would like to have included in this noise bylaw, some of them may not be enforceable by our staff," she said. "I would hate to have a false expectation in the public that a bylaw would be enforced when in fact we cannot enforce it."

McKnight said the township could set a maximum fine of \$1,000, however that probably wouldn't be passed.

"It goes through a quorum of judges that look at these fines and there's no way they would let that go through."

McKnight said council could consider the options, but the fines shouldn't exceed \$250.

Councillors saw the first draft of a noise bylaw at an Oct. 11 meeting. At that time a decision was made to create a separate bylaw for fireworks.

2013 levy a battle for Algonquin Highlands

By Lisa Harrison

Even before Algonquin Highlands councillors went into 2013 budget deliberations, they faced an increase on the municipal tax levy that reached nearly two per cent.

Nevertheless, at their March 7 meeting they approved a budget that represents the 2012 levy plus 2.5 per cent and growth-related taxes.

The township will see an \$18,800 reduction in Ontario Municipal Partnership Funding (OMPF) this year as well as a provincial tax loss of more than \$50,000 on Algonquin Park as a result of a special Municipal Properties Assessment Corporation (MPAC) parks reassessment requested by the province. MPAC notified the township of the adjustment at council's Nov. 15 meeting.

During budget deliberations, councillors and staff reviewed the already bare-bone department budgets carefully in an attempt to cover the shortfall and avoid a higher levy.

With the county and education tax rates, the township's total residential tax rate will increase by 1.4 per cent, resulting in taxes of \$645.18 per \$100,000 of assessment.

Estimated expenditures and revenues required by the township are \$7,860,107 and \$4,116,360 respectively, so \$3,743,747 will be levied for general municipal purposes on the assessment in each property class.

"I'm calling this a hard-won budget," said Reeve Carol Moffatt, thanking the treasurer, chief administrative officer and staff for their work to counteract the provincial losses.

Projects for this year include construction and resurfacing on three roads and repairs to the Boshkung boat ramp, with Moffatt calling it an awkward spot that has been "a source of angst and distress for boaters for years."

Landfill costs are rising and the township budgeted for the high cost of a closure plan to turn the Dorset landfill into a transfer station as it nears the end of its useful life.

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INFORMATION PAGE

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In case of emergency please Dial 9-1-1. For all other municipal emergencies please call 1-866-856-3247

Fire Calendar Winners

Week of March 4

Monique Dionne and Kyle Crumie

Week of March 11

David Shapiera and Rob & Robin Dillane

Public Skating

At the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena

Wednesdays and Sundays

12:00pm-2:00pm

unless otherwise posted

March Schedule and Sponsors

Sunday March 24

No Public Skate - Minden Figure Skating

Club Winter Carnival

Sunday March 31

No Public Skate-Coby Islander Hockey Tournament

Meetings and Events

March 24

2:00 pm, Irondale Community Centre Advisory meeting,
Irondale Community Centre

March 25

9:30 am, Committee of Adjustment Public Hearing,
Minden Council Chambers

March 28

9:00 am, Regular meeting of Council
Minden Council Chambers (public session 10:00 am)

March 29

Administration Office **CLOSED** for Good Friday

April 1

Administration Office **CLOSED** for Easter Monday

April 11

9:00 am, Committee of the Whole meeting, Minden
Council Chambers (public session 10:00 am)

April 25

9:00 am, Regular meeting of Council,
Minden Council Chambers (public session 10:00 am)

Committee Opportunity

Committee of Adjustment

We are seeking members from the public to sit on the Committee of Adjustment for the remaining term of Council to November 30th, 2014. The Committee of Adjustment meets monthly to review Minor Variance applications, and determine if they align with the intent of the Township of Minden Hills Official Plan and Zoning By-law. Please submit your letter of interest to the following:

Clerk's Office

Township of Minden Hills

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359

Minden, ON K0M 2K0

Please contact the Planning Department at
(705) 286-1260 ext. 206 for further details.



176 Bobcaygeon Road, Box 648

Minden ON K0M 2K0

705-286-3763, gallery@mindenhills.ca

www.mindenculturalcentre.com

Agnes Jamieson Gallery

Soft Doll Making Workshop

Saturday, April 13, 2013

11am to 3pm in the Common Room

Instructed by Pat Campbell

Supply List Information. Kit available.

Cost per person \$30

Call the Agnes Jamieson Gallery

705-286-3763 to sign up.

Visit www.mindenculturalcentre.ca to
check out the following exhibits and
other workshops:

The Eaton's Catalogue

January 12 – April 6, 2013

Who We Seem To Be

by Tanya Lyons

February 26 – March 30, 2013

Between the Lines

by Janette Charron

February 26 – March 30, 2013

R.D. Lawrence Place

The Coyote

January 14 – April 6, 2013

Sightings of coyotes have been an increasing concern in populated areas. This exhibition looks at some of the key issues of living with coyotes and how many of these conflicts can possibly be avoided. Exhibits will focus on coyote identification, skull formations and the recent research that suggests the hunting and trapping of coyotes is not the solution to this growing problem.

A lecture on this exhibit will be
announced.

Committee Opportunity

Minden Hills Museum Advisory Committee

We are currently seeking three (3) members of the public to sit on the **MHMAC** for the remaining term of Council to November 20th, 2014.

The MHMAC meets throughout the year to discuss matters relating to Museum operations and activities and to identify the needs of the Museum.

We are committed to building strength through diversity and strongly encourages qualified applicants from all backgrounds.

Please submit a letter of interest along with a brief outline of related experience, knowledge and interest by April 29, 2013. Submission can be dropped off directly to the Minden Hills Museum, 176 Bobcaygeon Road or mailed to:

Minden Hills Museum

176 Bobcaygeon Road, PO Box 648

Minden, ON

K0M 2K0

Attention: Darren Levstek, Curator

Contact the Minden Hills Museum at

705-286-3154 or

visit www.mindenculturalcentre.com

for further details.

Rental Opportunity

Rental Opportunity – 2 Prince Street

One bedroom home in Minden.

Visit www.mindenhills.ca for full details. Rental to commence on May 1st, 2013.

Please submit a completed application (available at the Township office) "[2 Prince Street Rental Application](#)" by Friday, April 5, 2013 by 12:00 noon to:

Clerk's Office, 2nd floor

Township of Minden Hills

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359

Minden, ON

K0M 2K0

Attention: Ivan Ingram, Environmental

& Property Operations Manager

Please contact the E.P.O.M at 705-286-1260 ext. 216

for further details.

Employment Opportunity

The Administration Department is currently seeking a
Deputy Clerk.

Qualified applicants are invited to submit a letter of application, along with a detailed resume of education and experience by 4 pm Thursday, March 22, 2013 to:

Clerk's Office

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359

Minden, ON K0M 2K0

Attention: Nancy Wright-Laking,

Chief Administrative Officer

Contact sprentice@mindenhills.ca for a full position
description or visit www.mindenhills.ca
for more information.

Highlander arts

Art program gets \$9k

By Matthew Desrosiers

Haliburton County artists are staying in local classrooms throughout 2013 thanks in part to a grant from the Ontario Arts Council.

The Arts Council-Haliburton Highlands received \$9,000 from its provincial counterpart for the Artists in the Schools (AITS) project, Pendants and Pottery – Grades 4 and 7.

"It's a grant we wrote to the Ontario Arts Council requesting funds to put four of our artists in all our Grade 4 and 7 classrooms to do their workshops," said Gail Stelter, AITS education coordinator.

The artists in question are Elise Muller, stone carving; Erin Lynch, jewellery making; Lisa Barry, pottery; and April Gates, pottery.

"These four artists are already in our program and already do these workshops," Stelter said. "What we've done by applying for special funding for this is to ensure these workshops will happen."

The program suffers from a lack of funding and as a result they have had to pull out of a number of classrooms over the last few

years. This grant ensures that all Haliburton County Grade 4 and 7 students receive 100-minute in-class arts education with the four instructors. There are 13 artists in total who are involved with AITS.

"We try to get money from wherever we can to support this program so we can be in as many classrooms as possible."

They are currently in 19 classrooms.

The money from this grant must be spent by the end of December 2013.

Funding for AITS comes in from various sources, including an annual bowl-a-thon and \$5,000 from the Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) specifically for Cardiff and Wilberforce elementary schools.

Stelter said the program is important for the county.

"It's an amazing program because it serves two purposes," she said. "One is our local artists. We're able to provide work for them. They get paid for this."

"For me, the big thing is arts for kids. The kids in our county don't often get out to arts experiences."



Photos submitted by Gail Stelter

Grade 4 students participate in a medallion workshop with Erin Lynch.



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Highlander arts



Photo by Martin Lipman / Canada Council for the Arts
Colette Whiten received a Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts.

Whiten wins Governor's award for visual arts

By Matthew Desrosiers

Artists, like everyday people, are always changing.

Whether their medium changes, their scope or their ideas, the challenge for artists in transition is staying relevant.

Colette Whiten is one who has successfully accomplished that feat.

Last night, Whiten was one of seven Canadian artists awarded with a Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts. "It's fantastic," she said. "It is like your peers are saying you have made a real contribution to the art community, and it feels good."

Whiten is a sculpture installation artist who splits her time between Toronto and Haliburton.

"I've been working in that venue for 40 years," she said. "I [have] also taught at the Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD)."

Her work has been shown across Canada and internationally. She is also in various collections, including the Art Gallery of Ontario and the National Gallery of Canada.

"The common idea that runs throughout has to do with the power structure in various ways," Whiten said. "The struggle for power, the balance of power, and it has manifested itself in a variety of media."

In the 1970s, Whiten built large structures in which people were supported while they were cast in plaster. The structures, castings and documentation were all part of the work.

She made a drastic switch in the 1980s, however, when she turned to embroidery.

"It was quite shocking for not only the art world, but for me too," she said. "I had difficulty thinking that I was actually taking it seriously, because up until that point embroidery was always considered women's work. It wasn't taken seriously. It certainly

wasn't 'high art.'"

However she used embroidery to tackle politics and politicians, gaining inspiration from images found in newspapers.

Whiten wasn't done with change yet.

After working with embroidery, she started making beaded curtains. One project that stood out for her was made for women dealing with breast cancer.

"The difficulty for me, you don't want to trivialize anybody else's experience," she said. "How do you acknowledge what they're going through?"

The curtain, when finished, repeated the words 'there, there, there'. She said it looked like an LED, but in actual fact it was a beaded curtain in black and red. The wording had to do with trying to comfort somebody, as mothers do their children.

She also completed a series of beaded portraits of other artists.

"I enclosed these little portraits in glass globes so that they look like eyeballs," Whiten said. "I was thinking about how the artists identify subject matter and things that need to be called attention to or looked at further."

"I just wanted to recognize my peers."

Despite changing mediums, Whiten remained diverse throughout her career.

In 1987-88, she and her husband worked together to build a famous sculpture in Calgary.

"We created the figurative element to the gateway to the Olympic Village in Calgary," she said. "It was an amazing project to work on. We've done a number of things like that."

Marnie Fleming, a curator, was the person who nominated Whiten for the award.

"She [Whiten] is one of the more important artists of her generation, a generation associated with issues of the body and identity."

JAKE'S BIG BREAK

Saturday March 23
6pm @ McKecks Tap & Grill

Tickets \$20
available at McKecks in Haliburton and
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Tickets include a light buffet dinner and dessert,
door prizes, and live music by the "Rock'n Bobs".

We will also have multiple silent and live "rowdy"
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Sunday, March 24th, 2013
Northern Lights Theatre
2:00 PM

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Razzamataz Kids Shows! are made possible in part by a grant from the Ontario Arts Council's Touring and Collaborations Program.

Highlander arts

Curing the blahs

It's that time of year that affects all of us in one way or another. Winter has not really left us and it seems that spring is still a ways off. We're tired and run down, and we're maybe suffering from a malaise akin to cabin fever, also known as the blahs. We could use some warmth and sunshine.

Some people are fortunate enough to escape to a sunny clime, but most of us have to tough it out at home. We'll have to do with whatever sun there is and take some 'medicine' to rectify our humours.

For me this is the time of year that also produces blockage... the creative kind. Writers block is probably the best known, though similar things happen in every creative field. What to do about it?

I've come to the conclusion that some external stimulation is what is needed to get the creative juices flowing again. Something as simple as a walk can help, but serious fevers, blahs and blockages need stronger medicine. Here are some suggestions.

First of all don't fight it. You're in a funk, so accept it and look for stimulating ways out. Right now I have about as much creativity as a mashed potato sandwich but I was recently inspired by an exhibition at the Rails End Gallery titled 'Two Squared.' It's a show that is constructed annually by the students of the 'Visual and Creative Arts Diploma' (VCAD) program from the Haliburton School of the Arts.

The great thing about 'Two Squared' is that the students are offered the Rails End Gallery space to exhibit their artwork in different stages of development. Because the works are unfinished it creates a non-judgmental atmosphere in the gallery, which is tremendously liberating and refreshing to artists and viewers alike.

Works are displayed on podiums, in a darkened booth, hanging from the ceiling and up on the walls, and the two and three dimensional pieces will put a smile on your face. It's totally uplifting and soul-cleansing. The show runs through to

What's Up



By George Farrell

March 23.

So, getting out of the house or the studio is important in breaking the fever and curing the blahs. Going for a drive is good. Maybe drink some maple syrup at any of our syrup-producing locations. Maple syrup has some real medicinal qualities and is also good for your Canadian psyche.

On the weekends a great destination is the Art Hive, located along Highway 118 between Carnarvon and Haliburton. Right now the Art Hive is featuring the 'MadeinHaliburton.ca' show which is comprised of a good cross-section of Haliburton artists of diverse disciplines. There are works from the regular Art Hive group of artists on display, too. You can also get special teas and snacks to fortify you and help loosen the tensions which create those blockages and blahs.

Are you getting the picture?

The idea is to seek inspiration from those around you. Seeing some inspiring stuff from others can jump-start a sluggish circulation and re-ignite creatively dormant embers.

Music, food, wine or beer used judiciously, singly or in combination (as per the script of your accumulated experiences), can also go a long way to breaking the fever. We are blessed in Haliburton, not only with our own great musicians but also organizations and establishments that provide entertainment, and in some cases sustenance too.

Accessing the web sites of McKeck's, The Dominion Hotel, Haliburton County Tourism, The Folk Society, the Arts Council and FYI Haliburton will tell you who's performing and where. There are all kinds of musical happenings to help cure your condition.

So, in summation: get out of the house, eat well, drink well, listen and observe. By the end of April you should be completely cured. If not, double the prescribed dosage.

Haliburton County's Hot Reads

The following are the top five fiction and non-fiction titles as requested this week at the Haliburton County Public Library.

HCPL's TOP FIVE FICTION

1. *The Storyteller* by Jodi Picoult
2. *Beach Strip* by John Lawrence Reynolds 🇨🇦
3. *The Forgotten* by David Baldacci
4. *Notorious Nineteen* by Janet Evanovich
5. *The Painted Girls* by Cathy Marie Buchanan 🇨🇦

HCPL's TOP FIVE NON-FICTION

1. *Eating Dirt* by Charlotte Gill 🇨🇦
2. *Wheat Belly: Lose the Wheat, Lose the Weight, and Find Your Path Back to Health* by William Davis
3. *Intolerable: A Memoir of Extremes* by Kamal Al-Solaylee 🇨🇦
4. *The Wealthy Barber Returns* by David Chilton 🇨🇦
5. *The Truth About Style* by Stacy London

New to the library's most popular non-fiction list is a perfect read for those looking to initiate a spring wardrobe makeover.

The Truth About Style by What Not To Wear's Stacy London is not only a guide to style but also an autobiography of London's personal transformation. Her coming of age was not without significant emotional baggage and like the makeovers she performs on television each week, she had to overhaul her own sense of self-worth before finding her style niche. Arising from London's years of low self-esteem, is her philosophy of the healing power of personal style.

In The Truth About Style she details "start-overs" with eight real women, demonstrating how personal style can help them overcome the obstacles they face. For anyone who has ever cursed at a dressing room mirror, this book is worth the quick read. Reserve it today at the Haliburton County Public Library.

LIBRARY NEWS

We're offering free Easter children's programming on Saturday, March 30 at both the Minden Hills and Dysart branches. Please visit our website for more information (www.haliburtonlibrary.ca).

GOT A NEWS TIP WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

Call The Highlander at

705-457-2900 or

e-mail matthew@haliburtonhighlander.ca

WINTERGREEN MAPLE SYRUP AND PANCAKE BARN IN GELERT

Open Sat. and Sun. 9-4 p.m. All of March and April

Early spring heralds the annual "sugaring off" in the sugar bushes of Haliburton Highlands. It's a wonderful time to get the family out in the open air and sunshine to experience one of our county's most traditional family activities. Come and view the evaporation process through the glass wall of our restaurant while savouring freshly made maple syrup on pancakes, french toast, maple baked beans and our custom-made farmer's sausages. A wide variety of maple products (jams, jellies, mustards, BBQ, hot sauces and freshly canned produce) are available in our retail area.

Cheque or cash only. Join us at 2 p.m.

Every Saturday and Sunday for taffy-on-snow at Sourdough Sam's cabin.

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Eastern Ontario Development Program (EODP) April 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014

OBJECTIVE	BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	
PRIORITY	Skills Development	Business Planning and Market Expansion
TOTAL	\$90,000	\$70,000
MAXIMUM	Up to 25,000/business 5,000 per individual	Up to 5,000
DESCRIPTION	To assist with skills development and training for employees and owners.	To assist with research, planning and market expansion
Not-for-profit organizations	N/A	N/A
Social Enterprises	50%	75%
Businesses	50%	50%
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS	April 15, 2013	April 15, 2013

Supported by the Government of Canada through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.



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TheComputer Guy What's that smell?



By David Spaxman

I get the kind of e-mail from time to time that insists that for your health or for your wealth or for the education or protection of others, you should forward the e-mail to everyone you know.

Over the years, I've developed a pretty good skeptical "nose" for sniffing this kind of thing out.

What is it I smell?

A big pile of lies, frauds, and misinformation usually.

Folks, you simply must approach the internet with skepticism. It's chock full of misinformation and a lot of it shows up in your e-mail inbox.

Every few days, it seems, I receive a forwarded plea warning us about the latest political abuse, conspiracy, health threat, computer virus, or telling me I can get money by forwarding the e-mail to all my friends. That last part is key: "forward this to everyone you know!" is almost always present.

They've come to be known as urban legends. Bill Gates is not tracking your e-mail and he will not pay you to forward this. The Gap is not handing out coupons based on how many people you forward your e-mail to. Ronald McDonald will not chase the Taco Bell dog across the screen if you forward to at least 10 people.

I just got this one recently: if I send the Lucky Leprechaun to everyone I know then I will have good fortune. Oh, happy St. Patrick's Day!

You get the idea. It goes on and on.

Don't. Please don't. Just resist the urge.

At least, don't do it until you're sure it's legitimate. And if it asks you to "forward this to everyone you know," or "tell all your friends and loved ones," chances are it's not.

There are many great sites that you can use to find out if it's legit. I'm particularly fond of Snopes – it's rare that I can't find what I'm looking for there, and each item has a clearly written and well-researched explanation of its truth or fallacy. Sites like Snopes will quickly and easily allow you to search and determine whether that important plea is just another hoax.

Forwarding e-mail that is in fact wrong is kind of like putting garbage in the inboxes of all your friends and family. At best, you're wasting their time and at worst, you're causing unnecessary anxiety.

It's really very simple: check it out before you forward. If you don't check it out, don't forward it, and no harm done. If there's actually an important, legitimate issue, then chances are you'll see it in the legitimate press. E-mail is not how news organizations, corporations, and government spread legitimate news and important information.

So if more people "get it," the fewer bogus stories, warnings, and other garbage that we'll all have to wade through. You'll educate a few people and reduce, by a small amount, the misinformation on the internet.

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Highlander business

Moonflowers brings the magic

By Matthew Desrosiers

When you don't feel your best but you know medicine isn't the answer, Minden's newest business owner might have the answer for you.

Charlene Bateman is the owner of Moonflowers Magical Touch, a new shop in Minden right across from the CIBC. Her first store was opened three years ago in Markham, but has since been relocated to Stouffville.

She officially opened her doors in Minden on March 2. "Energetically, it felt like the right place to be," Bateman said.

Moonflowers Magical Touch is a spirituality store, said manager Janet Grove.

"We're kind of a little bit of everything," she said. "We have the largest selection of crystals, between here and the Stouffville store, in all of Ontario."

The shop carries natural oils, soaps, bath salts, creams, essential oils, scented candles, angels and more.

The pair made the decision to open this sister store on Feb. 14. After waiting four days to get into the space, they renovated the entire store, built shelves and had everything ready for the March opening.

"It was fast," Grove said. "There was nothing in here. We've gone from floor to ceiling."

She said the experience so far has been great.

"The town has been wonderful. Everybody that's come in has been really nice and welcoming. It's been a nice experience. All the other merchants are wonderful."

Bateman said the inspiration for her stores was to help people.

"You need to fall in love with yourself first," she



Photo by Walt Griffin

Charlene Bateman (left) has just opened Moonflowers Magical Touch in Minden with her manager, Janet Grove.

said. "That's what we teach people. You love yourself unconditionally. It's all about peace and love and helping others."

The store will have its grand opening on the May long weekend. There will be free mini-readings and mini-healings, with any donations going to the food bank.

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Highlander environment

U-Links project seeks invaders

By Matthew Desrosiers

Nick Chapman spends much of his time fishing the frozen waters of Kushog Lake, looking for Lake Trout.

But he's not there for recreation.

Chapman is an honours student in Trent University and Fleming College's joint ecological restoration program. Since August 2012, he has been working on his honours thesis in partnership with U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research.

He started his project in the fall on Kushog Lake collecting samples of zooplankton.

"I'm identifying the species and the abundance of each species," Chapman said. "Part of the reason is to get some baseline data for the monitoring to take place as the years go on."

Now that the lake is frozen, he is ice fishing for lake trout, looking for signs of the spiny water flea (bythotrephes longimanus).

"It's an invasive species," Chapman said. "It was introduced into the Great Lakes in the mid 80s from Eurasia, and it came in the ballast tanks of shipping tankers. Since then it has colonized into over 150 Ontario lakes and about 30 lakes in New York."

The spiny water flea can have a serious impact on our lakes, he said.

"They can change the native zooplankton communities. They eat the native zooplankton. It can have several effects, one of them being it can change the energy flows between trophic levels."

He said spiny water flea can affect smaller fish that lake trout would be eating.

"Zooplankton are also very good at keeping nutrient levels where they are and

in check," Chapman said. "It can also alter the lake that way."

In Norway, a study was done in the mid 80s where high densities of Arctic char could reduce or eliminate spiny water flea from lakes.

"There's a possibility lake trout can do the same, if they are, in fact, eating them," he said. "There's a possibility there that lake trout can act as a biological control for spiny water flea."

Although lake trout and Arctic char are closely related, it's possible the spiny water flea is actually damaging lake trout directly.

"What can happen with some fish is if they eat the spiny water flea, the spine of the spiny water flea will actually puncture the gut walls," Chapman said. "It could be doing damage to the lake trout population if they are eating them."

The purpose of Chapman's thesis is to determine whether or not lake trout are eating spiny water flea, and if they are, whether they are being damaged by it or are able to act as a biological control for the lake's nutrient levels.

He needs to collect 20 lake trout as his sample. The two fish per day limit and the lake's slot size are two factors that have proved a challenge to Chapman's fishing.

"As soon as I get the sample, if it's not in the slot size, I have to almost immediately dissect it and retrieve the stomach, because the stomach will actually keep digesting," he said. "Then I put it in a jar with isopropyl alcohol to preserve it."

When he gets the samples back the lab, Chapman starts digging for spiny water flea.

"There hasn't been many, if any, studies in the past to show if lake trout are eating or



Photo by Matthew Desrosiers

Nick Chapman is researching whether lake trout can defend against spiny water fleas.

are not eating spiny water flea," he said. "If they are eating, that's a good sign that there is a possibility to use them as a biological control."

If that turns out to be the case, then it's possible that by stocking Kushog Lake with lake trout, the spiny water flea could be eliminated. However, there are possible impacts to doing that which would require additional study.

"It could have trophic effects," he said. "It could reduce bait fish populations by doing so. Most fish are density dependant when it comes to growth, so if you had a higher density of lake trout they would likely be smaller, or grow slower."

Emma Horrigan, a researcher with U-Links, said they were approached last spring by the Kushog Lake Property Owners' Association to do long-term monitoring of the lake.

"This is a great example of a project where the lake association had some questions that they wanted answered, but not necessarily all the resources or tools available to them [to do so]," she said. "Nick [Chapman] is able to do a thesis and the lake association gets a report in the end to help them with their long-term monitoring goals."

Chapman said the results of his study will be completed by the end of April.

Your waste and your water: the inconvenient truth, EH!

By Terry Moore, on behalf of Environment Haliburton (EH)

Some very smart people, including Dr. Norman Yan of the Dorset Environmental Science Centre, view lake trout as the aquatic equivalent of canaries in coal mines.

Before the advent of reliable mechanical safety equipment, miners took canaries into coal mines because of their sensitivity to deadly gases. As soon as they started dropping, the miners started running.

And so it is with lake trout in relation to everyone dependent on high quality water.

To be sure, the circumstances are usually less dramatic the timeframe less urgent but when the fish start showing signs of serious stress, it's an early warning signal for humans to take appropriate remedial action.

Haliburton County has been blessed with an incredible legacy of some 600 relatively pristine lakes on which to base a thriving tourist economy. About 90 of these lakes are trout lakes and subject to special government rules to protect them from excessive nutrient-creating and oxygen-depleting human activities – like phosphorus and nitrogen migration from septic systems, fertilizer runoff and depletion of shoreline vegetation.

These special rules kick in when dissolved oxygen levels in lake trout lakes fall below seven micrograms per litre of water, the point at which lake trout cannot survive. When the Ministry of Environment (MOE) determines oxygen levels on a trout lake have fallen below this point, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) puts that lake on an "at capacity" list and asks municipal governments to put any further lot creation around that lake on hold.

The latest numbers from the MNR show that 40 out of 90 Haliburton trout lakes (over 40 per cent) have been declared "at capacity" or "borderline". This is a shockingly high number and should be seen as a wake up call for county decision makers.

A common denominator among at capacity lakes is a high level of phosphorus giving rise to greater than normal oxygen-depleting organic activity.

Given the key role natural shorelines vegetation plays in capturing phosphorus released by septic beds and artificial fertilizers, the county's adoption of a shoreline tree preservation bylaw last year has to be seen as an important step in the right direction.

However, according to the Ministry of the

Environment's *Lake Capacity Assessment Handbook, May 2010*, the largest single source of excessive phosphorus loadings in trout lakes is private septic systems, of which there are thousands spread across this county. Many of these septic systems were installed a long time ago and it is reasonable to assume a significant number are in need of a major upgrade.

Growing awareness of the oxygen-depleting impact of septic systems on Haliburton Lakes is generating pressure for a comprehensive mandatory re-inspection program for all septic systems.

Approximately 30 municipalities in Ontario have instituted a septic re-inspection program of some kind. Some have mandatory cyclical re-inspections, such as the one in place since 2007 in the Township of Huron-Kinloss.

Re-inspection programs can be expensive initiatives for small municipalities to implement and that can lead to political resistance. Effective on-going programs designed to cover all systems in a recurring cycle involving pump-outs and physical inspections are more expensive than ones based on drive-by visual assessments. Some critics also view them as an excessive intrusion into private property rights.

To be sure, no one likes to be told their septic system has to be repaired or upgraded, particularly if that news comes with a significant cost attached. On the other hand, the cumulative impact of thousands of individual sources of phosphorus leaking into lakes can create serious environmental and economic fallout for the entire community. Algal blooms are appearing in the county with increased frequency and at least one Haliburton Lake has developed three 'dead zones' due to oxygen-depleting nutrient loading.

The question we need to ask is "how serious is the threat posed by aging, sub-standard or failing septic systems to the water quality of Haliburton lakes and to an economy dependent on that health?" If the answer is "significant", as the scientific evidence strongly suggests, then the case for mandatory septic re-inspection is compelling.

We urgently need an adult conversation in Haliburton about how to stop the slide in the health of our lakes. Mandatory septic re-inspection would be a great place to start.

For questions or comments, or for additional reading on this topic, contact Terry at environmenthaliburton@haliburtonhighlander.ca.

Highlander sports

Koehler takes on the world at sled dog comp

By Warren Riley

On the trail at Morning Star Park, 46 mushers and 25 skijorers started the World Sled and Skidog Championships. Dogs were howling with excitement and anxious to run. The hundreds of onlookers waved giving support to their favourite teams.

Hosted by the International Federation of Dogsled Sports, the event took place between March 1 and 17 in North Pole, Alaska, and has captured the attention of participants from around the world.

Representing one of the Canadian teams was Karen Koehler of Minden who teaches at Archie Stouffer Elementary School. She described her participation as one of action and excitement.

"The World Championships in Alaska was super fun," said Koehler. "The weather was very much like a nice winter week here, between -12 and -4 Celsius during most of the races. In the two-dog race, which was my warm up, I didn't have two big dogs and unfortunately we placed 13th."

Skijoring involves the timed competition of a dog or team of dogs attached to the skier by a rope, as the team makes its way through a course. The team completing the marked course in the fastest time is the winner.

Koehler felt vindicated by her time in the skijor race.



Karen Koehler, left, in Alaska.

Photo by

"In the one-dog skijor we placed 10th; two seconds out of 9th place."

Koehler also represented Canada in the pulk division. The term pulk is commonly used to refer to many different kinds of specialized toboggans (often with skis) that are used to transport gear. Dog sports enthusiasts often have their dogs pull pulks for various reasons including hauling their gear into the backwoods.

"In the pulka, we came in 5th," she said. "We clipped more than a minute off the lead time from the previous day's event."

It is up to competitors to ensure their dog and equipment are weighed and adjusted properly prior to the race. Sometimes things go wrong and for Koehler that is

exactly what happened.

"In the combined event, Bundle [our dog] got loose. We got stuck behind a skier having problems controlling her dog. But I still managed to keep my position and came in 6th."

"In the relay [for team] Canada, we placed 5th," she continued. "For my part of the relay, I was almost a minute closer to the lead time once again. We also competed in the Limited North American Championships in Fairbanks Alaska and finished in 3rd place clipping more seconds off the lead time each day."

Intramurals back on at HHSS

By Jessica Miscio, student intern

Lunchtime at the high school can drag on, but now that the strike is over, teachers are back to supervising intramural sports at lunch.

Students are pleased for the chance to be active during lunch.

"They give us something to do", said Jacon Harrison, a student at the school. "Students who don't normally communicate [feel as if they can do so at intramurals]. They are an option to do something different... [so that we're not] standing around every lunch period."

Students use intramurals to play or be entertained rather than walking the halls at lunch. Intramurals are sports in the gym supervised by teachers.

Currently, students are playing badminton. If someone doesn't like a sport, they can come back in a week or two and find a new one.

Holly Broderick is glad to have them back.

"[Intramurals are] something where students can get a little break from sitting around all day doing school work. It is a great way to de-stress and break up your day."



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Terms of Employment: 42 weeks.

Candidates must have a diploma or degree from a post secondary institution and be under the age of 30.

This partnership between Haliburton Media Arts (HMA) and Haliburton County Folk Society (HCFS) involves the development of a Youth Social Entrepreneurship model that will increase opportunities for community members, particularly youth, to learn new media skills and to apply those skills as entrepreneurs. The successful candidate will work with HMA and HCFS to promote, implement and administrate the Youth Social Entrepreneurship project. He/she will also assist HCFS with audience development and the marketing of its programs and services including concerts; and HMA with creation of media for businesses and organizations in Haliburton County. The successful candidate will also be part of a planning team for a symposium for performing arts in rural communities scheduled for April 2014.

Haliburton Media Arts and Haliburton County Folk Society are projects of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative. For more information or a full job description contact Tammy Rea at (705) 935-0298, tammy.l.rea@gmail.com or Barrie Martin at 705-754-3436, barrie.martin@sympatico.ca This position is being funded by the Haliburton County Development Corporation.

Please submit your cover letter and resume to Barrie Martin via mail (1344 Barry Line Rd. Haliburton, KOM 1S0) email, or fax (705-754-3436) on or before April 9, 2013. Only applicants invited to an interview will be contacted

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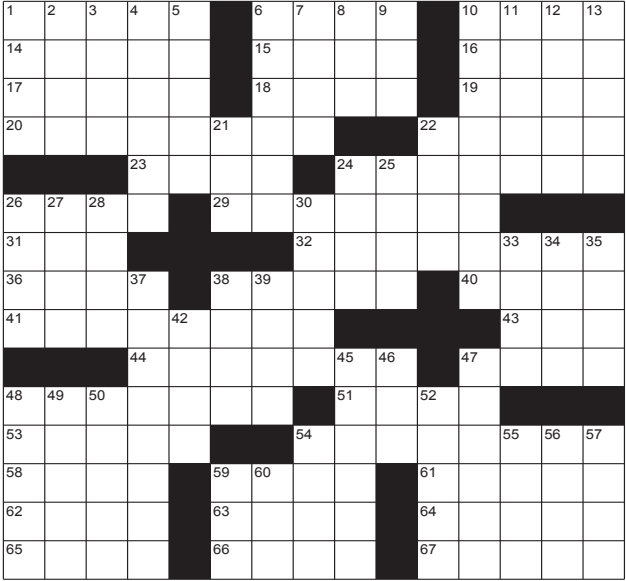
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Highlander events

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- ACROSS**
1. Pesto ingredient
6. Intimidates
10. Surrounded by
14. Boxing locale
15. Bruise
16. The ____ Ranger
17. Marsh plants
18. Military branch
19. Ice cream holder
20. Junior, to his father
22. Ventured
23. Alaskan city
24. Lingers
26. Church group
29. ____ trading
31. Comrade
32. Small furniture item (2 wds.)
36. Consumer
38. Leg joints
40. Passion
41. Officiated at a boxing match
43. Shoemaker's tool
44. Rummy variety
47. Hill of sand
48. Monarch
51. Common skin problem
53. ____ code
54. Thieves
58. Sherbets
59. Fail to mention
61. Worth
62. Biblical pronoun
63. Infamous fiddler
64. Leg part
65. Beach feature
66. Bread spread
67. Defeated candidate
- DOWN**
1. Hayloft locale
2. Locality
3. Look
4. Set in from the margin
5. Cowboy's tool
6. Rouse
7. "The Way We ____"
8. Shade tree
9. Pigpen
10. San Francisco prison
11. Roger ____ (007 actor)
12. Not outer
13. Acts
21. Friend (Fr.)
22. Food plan
24. Queue
25. Gambling term
26. Goad
27. Lighten
28. Musical sign
30. Plant beginnings
33. Sweetheart
34. Grassy area
35. Model ____ Macpherson
37. Indented
38. Casino game
39. Not far
42. Seldom found
45. Skin decoration
46. High card
47. Franklin ____ Roosevelt
48. Sends forth
49. Coffee flavor
50. Pimp
52. Nautical
54. Father
55. Caribous' kin
56. Govern
57. Fortuneteller
59. Artist Yoko ____
60. Director ____ Brooks

Last week's puzzle solutions

5	8	3	6	1	2	9	7	4
6	9	7	4	8	3	1	5	2
2	4	1	9	5	7	8	3	6
7	6	5	2	4	9	3	8	1
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Fun Fact:
Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.

MARCH 2013 EVENTS CALENDAR

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Cribbage - Community Care @ 1 p.m., 705-457-2941 Canadian Federation of University Women- Haliburton Highlands meeting - Fleming College, 7 p.m.	Cribbage - (every Friday) - Community Care @ 1 p.m., 705-457-2941.	U-Links Annual Celebration of Research - Fleming College (Haliburton), 1-4 p.m. Highlands East Skating Club presents their Annual Skating Carnival "Canadian, EH!" - Keith Tallman Arena, Wilberforce. 6:30 p.m., admission by donation.	
21	22	23	24
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
	Minden United Church Service - Minden United Church, 11 a.m. Includes Joyful Noisemakers followed by a soup and sandwich lunch. 705-286-1305. Volunteer Income Tax Program - Haliburton Legion, 9:30-2 p.m.	Volunteer Income Tax Program - Wilberforce Legion, 2-3:30 p.m. and at Minden Legion, 10-12 p.m. Community Drum Circle - Rails End Gallery @ 6:30 p.m., 705-457-2330	The Highlander hits the streets. Pick up your copy at over 80 locations!
25	26	27	28
FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Cribbage - (every Friday) - Community Care @ 1 p.m., 705-457-2941.	Maple Syrup Festival - Lloyd Watson Centre. All day, all you can eat pancakes!	Minden United Church Service - Minden United Church, 11 a.m. Includes Joyful Noisemakers followed by a soup and sandwich lunch. 705-286-1305. Haliburton Legion Ladies Auxiliary meeting , 1 p.m.	Contract Bridge - (every Monday) - Community Care @ 1 p.m., 705-457-2941
29	30	31	APRIL 1

WHAT'S GOING ON AT YOUR LOCAL LEGION?

Haliburton Branch (705-457-2571) Bid Euchre, every Wednesday, 1 p.m. Bingo, every Wednesday, 7 p.m. Minden Branch (705-286-4541) Lunch menu, every Monday to Friday from noon - 2 p.m. Cribbage, every Saturday, 1-3 p.m. Bid Euchre, every Tuesday, 1 p.m. Meat Draw, every Wednesday, lunchtime	Ladies Darts, every Thursday, 1 p.m. Euchre, every Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Radio Club, every Friday, 10 a.m. Fish & Chips, every Friday from 5-7 p.m. Darts, every Friday, 7:30 p.m. Open every Saturday & Sunday from 12-5 p.m.	Wilberforce Branch (705-448-2221) Pool, every Friday, 1:30 p.m. Jam session, every Friday, 7 p.m. Meat draw, every Saturday, 2 p.m. Bid euchre, every Monday, 7 p.m. Fun darts, every Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
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Send your community event to
ashley@haliburtonhighlander.ca

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Highlander events



A howlin' good time at the Haliburton Forest

By Mark Arike

Children and their families experienced a mix of fun and learning during March Break at the Haliburton Forest's wolf centre.

On March 11, 13 and 15, youngsters participated in wolf-themed arts and crafts activities, and took in a puppet show performed by Haliburton Forest staff.

The March Break events were included with the price of regular admission to the centre.

Top: Jacob Sheryer, centre, checks out the wolf centre's "touch table" with his father Brent Sheryer and grandmother Greta Lariviere. Above: Kids create wolf-themed art during March Break at the wolf centre. Left to right: Shan Kohli, Sommer Meirik, Harmony Meirik and Natasha Kohli.

Photos by Mark Arike



Photo by Matthew Desrosiers

Music and maple syrup

Donna "Drifter" LeClair (left) and Patricia Liverseed entertained at the Maple Syrup Festival in Haliburton on March 16. Volunteers at the Haliburton Highlands Museum walked visitors through the maple syrup process, while inside kids could make crafts and listen to music.

HomeRoutes brings talent

By Matthew Desrosiers

When it comes to concerts, bars and stages aren't always best.

John and Thea Patterson hosted The Sweet Lowdown, an old-time country and bluegrass band from British Columbia, at their home, Abbey North, on March 15.

The concert, was the latest HomeRoutes House Concert put on by the Haliburton County Folk Society (HCFS).

"I thought they were really good," said Eric Lilius, HomeRoutes coordinator for HCFS. "I thought it was a really good performance."

The three-member band played in the Patterson's living room, surrounded by county residents. The concert was very intimate.

Lilius said the HomeRoutes series allows artists to put on a series of shows without

having to pay for hotel rooms while they travel. They are put up by the hosts, in this case the Pattersons, for the night before travelling to their next destination.

For HCFS, they receive a lineup of six concerts over the fall/spring, Lilius said.

"We're getting to see performers that often we haven't heard of, and it's really been a pretty good experience. There has been some pretty stellar performances."

Part of the experience is watching the show from someone's home.

"Every house has its own atmosphere. They're all different, but they all seem to work."

Lilius said for these concerts they usually aim for 30-40 people in the room. Each person donates \$20 to the artists, as there are no costs for the venue.

For upcoming shows, Lilius said the HCFS

Highlander services




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